

# USA Comments to the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission - February 2015 Report

**General Comment:** The equivalent Articles, 1.2.1. and 1.2.2, in Chapter 1.2 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code would apply equally well for determining criteria for the inclusion of aquatic animal diseases. Rather than editing and debating the language proposed below, we suggest adopting the same language used in the Terrestrial Code.

## CHAPTER 1.2.

### CRITERIA FOR LISTING AQUATIC ANIMAL THE INCLUSION OF DISEASES IN THE OIE LIST

#### Article 1.2.1.

##### Introduction

This chapter describes the criteria for the inclusion of aquatic animal diseases in the OIE list ~~listing diseases in Chapter 1.3.~~

The objective of listing is to support Member Countries' by providing information needed to take appropriate action ~~efforts~~ to prevent the transboundary spread of important *diseases of aquatic animals*. This is achieved by through transparent, timely and consistent reporting-notification.

For the *diseases* listed in accordance with Article 1.2.2., the corresponding *disease-specific* chapters ~~in the Aquatic Code~~ assist Member Countries in the harmonisation of disease detection, prevention and control and provide standards for safe *international trade in aquatic animals* and their products.

The requirements for *notification of listed diseases* are detailed in Chapter 1.1.

Principles for selection of diagnostic tests are described in Chapter 1.1.2 of the Aquatic Manual.

#### Article 1.2.2.

The cCriteria for the inclusion of a listing an aquatic animal disease in the OIE list are as follows:

~~Diseases proposed for listing should meet the relevant criteria as set out in A. Consequences, B. Spread and C. Diagnosis. Therefore, to be listed, a disease should have the following characteristics: 1 or 2 or 3; and 4 or 5; and 6; and 7; and 8. Such proposals should be accompanied by a case definition for the disease under consideration.~~

No.	Criteria for listing	Explanatory notes
A. Consequences		

No.		Criteria for listing	Explanatory notes
4-OR	<u>b.</u>	The <i>disease</i> has been shown to cause <u>a significant production losses at a national or multinational (zonal or regional) level impact on the health of <i>aquatic animals</i> at the level of country or a zone taking into account the occurrence and severity of the clinical signs, including direct production losses and mortality.</u>	<del>There is a general pattern that the disease will lead to losses in susceptible species, and that morbidity or mortality are related primarily to the infectious agent and not management or environmental factors. (Morbidity includes, for example, loss of production due to spawning failure.) The direct economic impact of the disease is linked to its morbidity, mortality and effect on product quality.</del>

<u>2-OR</u>	<u>c-Or</u>	The <del>disease</del> has been shown to <del>is</del> or scientific evidence indicates that it <del>is likely to</del> would, cause <del>a</del> significant <u>impact on the health of morbidity or mortality in wild aquatic animal populations taking into account the occurrence and severity of the clinical signs, including direct production losses and mortality, and ecological threats.</u>	<del>Wild aquatic animal populations can be populations that are commercially harvested (wild fisheries) and hence are an economic asset. However, the asset could be ecological or environmental in nature, for example, if the population consists of an endangered species of aquatic animal or an aquatic animal potentially endangered by the disease.</del>
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<u>AND</u>			
<u>3-4.</u>	<u>a-Or</u>	The agent is of public health concern. <u>Natural transmission to humans has been proven, and human infection is associated with severe consequences.</u>	

#### And B- Spread

<u>4.</u>	-	<del>Infectious aetiology of the disease is proven.</del>	-
<u>5.</u>	Or	An infectious agent is strongly associated with the disease, but the aetiology is not yet known.	Infectious diseases of unknown aetiology can have equally high risk implications as those diseases where the infectious aetiology is proven. Whilst disease occurrence data are gathered, research should be conducted to elucidate the aetiology of the disease and the results be made available within a reasonable period of time.

No.		Criteria for listing	Explanatory notes
<b>And B- Spread</b>			
<u>6-1.</u>	And	<del>Likelihood of international spread, of the agent including (via live aquatic animals, or their products, or fomites) has been proven.</del>	<del>International trade in aquatic animal species susceptible to the disease exists or is likely to develop and, under international trading practices, the entry and establishment of the disease is likely.</del>
<u>AND</u>			
<u>7-2.</u>	And	<u>At least one Several countries or countries with zones has demonstrated freedom or impending freedom from the disease in populations of susceptible aquatic animals, may be declared free of the disease based on the general surveillance provisions principles outlined in of Chapters 1.4. and 1.5.</u>	<del>Free countries/zones could still be protected. Listing of diseases that are ubiquitous or extremely widespread would render notification unfeasible. However, individual countries that run a control programme on such a disease can propose its listing provided they have undertaken a scientific evaluation to support their request. Examples may be the protection of broodstock from widespread diseases, or the protection of the last remaining free zones from a widespread disease.</del>

**And — C. Diagnosis**

<u>AND</u>		
<u>8.3.</u>	<del>A repeatable and robust</del> <u>Reliable</u> means of detection/ and diagnosis exists <u>and a precise case definition is available to clearly identify cases and allow them to be distinguished from other diseases.</u>	<del>A diagnostic test should be widely available and preferably has undergone a formal standardisation and validation process using routine field samples (See Aquatic Manual.) or a robust case definition is available to clearly identify cases and allow them to be distinguished from other pathologies.</del>

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